

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to complete my remarks before the vote.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### U.S. POSTAL SERVICE NOMINATIONS

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the two U.S. Postal Service Board of Governors nominees that are before the Senate this afternoon, as well as a third nominee under consideration later this month.

Like our Presiding Officer, I had the privilege of serving our country in a time of war and a time of peace, with three tours in Southeast Asia and a good deal of time in the Cold War after that. My dad had many years in the Navy, and my uncle, my mom's youngest brother, was an enlisted man, a third-class petty officer on an aircraft carrier in 1944, the USS *Suwannee*. There was a kamikaze attack, and it never recovered.

I know how important it was to my uncle, to my dad, and to myself when we would receive mail, whether it was in Southeast Asia, whether my uncle was deployed on his aircraft carrier or my dad was deployed around the world—how important the mail was.

I know how important the Postal Service was to tens of millions of people who voted last fall in local elections, State elections, and Federal elections across this country—more than ever, ever in the history of our country.

There are some people I know who think that the Postal Service is a relic and is not something that we need. Ask the people who receive their medicine, not just their mail today, not just the things that they have ordered to come and are delivered by the Postal Service—all kinds of stuff—but also the people who receive medicines, whether they are veterans or other people from all walks of life.

The Postal Service today has had a profoundly challenging year. It has had a profoundly challenging year with the global pandemic. Drastic reforms were made without full knowledge of their service impact, and a busy holiday season created tremendous challenges for this venerable institution.

Delays in mail and package delivery increased last year while employees struggled with the effects of the pandemic on themselves and their families. At a time when reliance on mail and package delivery was perhaps higher than ever, the U.S. Postal Service struggled to deliver mail and packages in a timely and a predictable way.

Delays in the mail service have real world impact in communities large and small. In Delaware, veterans of our Armed Forces had to wait longer for lifesaving medications and delayed packages. Our Delaware congressional delegation heard from literally hundreds of constituents in our State about missed paychecks, credit card bills, and court notices.

"Mom and Pop" shops in my State—and I guess in Arizona, the home of our Presiding Officer—may have suffered from the delays. "Mom and Pop" shops in my State and across the country have suffered from delayed deliveries of important supplies to run their business and to stay in business. Many poultry farmers, particularly in more rural parts of Delaware and on the Delmarva Peninsula, to include the Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia, too, were shocked to find that baby chicks died in the course of delayed postal deliveries to their farms.

These impacts were unacceptable. They were driven by the pandemic and decisions largely made at the top of the Postal Service.

Further, Postmaster DeJoy released in March a 10-year strategic plan that doesn't do enough to address the significant operational challenges being faced right now at the U.S. Postal Service. The plan limits operating hours and lowers service standards, which would harm many seniors and rural Delawareans up and down our State and across the country. If implemented, such a plan would make it harder, not easier, to restore confidence in the Postal Service.

Fast forward to today. By selecting these nominees to the U.S. Postal Board of Governors, it has become clear that President Biden recognizes the dire need to get the Postal Service back to its core mission—reliable, affordable, and on-time mail delivery service for Americans across this country.

These well-qualified nominees—and they are well-qualified nominees—also make clear President Biden's desire to drive innovation at the Postal Service that can keep costs low while boosting revenue opportunities and protecting the livelihoods of the men and women who work tirelessly to deliver our mail.

Ron Stroman, whom I have had the privilege of knowing for more than a decade, is himself a former Deputy Postmaster General, a role he served in from 2011 to 2020, a longtime Federal servant—and he is a servant. Mr. Stroman has intimate knowledge of this institution and how to make long-lasting positive changes in large organizations like the U.S. Postal Service.

Amber McReynolds is currently the CEO for the National Vote at Home Institute and Coalition. What do they do? Well, they work to make it easier for Americans to vote securely, to vote safely, and to vote conveniently. Delivering ballots by mail is one of the most solemn obligations that the Postal Service has. It is the underpinning of our democracy in this country.

Finally, Mr. Anton Hajjar is the third nominee, whose nomination we are considering later in this work period, not today. Mr. Hajjar is the former general counsel of the American Postal Workers Union, where he fought to make sure that mail carriers and other postal employees get the support that they deserve.

At the hearing we had last month in the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, I was thoroughly impressed with each of these nominees and their knowledge of the needs of the Postal Service. All three nominees exhibited professionalism, the expertise, the leadership, and the commitment—the commitment—that we need at the Postal Service Board of Governors. Think of the Board of Governors almost like a board of directors for a company. They don't run the Postal Service every day, but they help set the tone, policies, and oversee the operations.

Further, these three nominees agree that the Postal Service has tremendous opportunities ahead. The Postal Service is currently in the midst of a once-in-a-lifetime update to the postal delivery vehicles, with a prime opportunity to be a leader in the fight against climate change. The Postal Service will replace up to 165,000 vehicles.

So, every now and then, we see postal vehicles—probably every day. We probably look at them sometimes and say: That looks like an old vehicle. The reason it looks like an old vehicle is because it is. Many of them are 25 years old. They run on gasoline. They run on diesel. They pollute, and they break down. We have an opportunity here to replace them with a new fleet of low-emission or no-emission vehicles powered by batteries and powered by hydrogen fuel cells.

The nominees we are considering today and later this month also agree that the Postal Service has an obligation to work with Congress to enact important postal reform legislation which would help the agency save tens of billions of dollars over the next 10 years.

How might that happen? One, by better integrating postal retirees' healthcare with the Medicare Program and by repealing a burdensome retiree health benefit obligation that most other large companies don't have to bear.

I often refer to a saying made popular by Albert Einstein. I am not smart like Albert Einstein, but I am smart enough to quote Albert Einstein. Albert Einstein used to say: "In adversity lies opportunity." Think about that: "In adversity lies opportunity."

The Bible says something like this: In all things, give thanks.

I think it was Henry Ford who said: "If you think you can or you think you can't, you're right."

But Einstein said: "In adversity lies opportunity." The Postal Service has faced considerable adversity over the last decade or two. This has been perhaps the most difficult stretch in its long and storied history.

You know, the Postal Service is not an idea that somebody dreamed up 30, 40, 50, or 60 years ago. It was originally outlined in the Constitution and the first Post Master General was a guy named Ben Franklin. After that storied history, we have an opportunity to face

the adversities the Postal Service faces today with an opportunity to confirm three well-qualified Postal Service Board of Governors to public service who will be ready on day one—not a month from now or a year from now, but on day one—to ensure that this invaluable institution is able to meet its vital mission.

I am proud to support them. I am proud to say I know them, and I urge my colleagues to support them as well—two of them later today and another one probably later this month.

With that I yield the floor.

#### VOTE ON THE STROMAN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MURPHY). The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Stroman nomination?

Mr. KELLY. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 69, nays 30, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 186 Ex.]

#### YEAS—69

Baldwin	Hassan	Portman
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Romney
Blunt	Hoeven	Rosen
Booker	Johnson	Rounds
Brown	Kaine	Sanders
Cantwell	Kelly	Schatz
Capito	King	Schumer
Cardin	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Carper	Leahy	Sinema
Casey	Lujan	Smith
Cassidy	Manchin	Stabenow
Collins	Markey	Sullivan
Coons	McConnell	Tester
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Thune
Cramer	Merkley	Toomey
Duckworth	Moran	Van Hollen
Durbin	Murkowski	Warner
Ernst	Murphy	Warnock
Feinstein	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Graham	Padilla	Wyden
Grassley	Peters	Young

#### NAYS—30

Barrasso	Fischer	Paul
Blackburn	Hagerty	Risch
Boozman	Hawley	Rubio
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Burr	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Shelby
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	Lummis	Tuberville
Daines	Marshall	Wicker

#### NOT VOTING—1

Heinrich

The nomination was confirmed. (Thereupon, the President pro tempore assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the

Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 109, Ronald Stroman, of the District of Columbia, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service, for a term expiring December 8, 2028. (Reappointment)

Charles E. Schumer, Margaret Wood Hassan, Tammy Duckworth, Jon Tester, John Hickenlooper, Tammy Baldwin, Brian Schatz, Gary C. Peters, Tina Smith, Cory A. Booker, Christopher Murphy, Debbie Stabenow, Richard Blumenthal, Sheldon Whitehouse, Chris Van Hollen, Benjamin L. Cardin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Alex Padilla.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Ronald Stroman, of the District of Columbia, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2028, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SMITH). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 67, nays 32, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 187 Ex.]

#### YEAS—67

Baldwin	Hassan	Romney
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rounds
Blunt	Hoeven	Sanders
Booker	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	Kelly	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Capito	Klobuchar	Sinema
Cardin	Leahy	Smith
Carper	Lujan	Stabenow
Casey	Manchin	Sullivan
Cassidy	Markey	Tester
Collins	Menendez	Thune
Coons	Merkley	Toomey
Cortez Masto	Moran	Van Hollen
Cramer	Murkowski	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warnock
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Ernst	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Padilla	Wyden
Gillibrand	Peters	Young
Graham	Portman	
Grassley	Reed	

#### NAYS—32

Barrasso	Hagerty	Paul
Blackburn	Hawley	Risch
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Braun	Inhofe	Sasse
Burr	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Shelby
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	Lummis	Tuberville
Daines	Marshall	Wicker
Fischer	McConnell	

#### NOT VOTING—1

Heinrich

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SMITH). On this vote, the yeas are 67, the nays are 32.

The motion is agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Ronald Stroman, of the District of Columbia, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2028. (Reappointment)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

#### EAGLES ACT OF 2021

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, today I would like to address the national plague of targeted violence. Whether it is in our schools, houses of worship, restaurants, businesses, or even on our city streets, these senseless killings are impacting all of us.

I woke up Friday morning, April 16, to learn of another tragedy, this time in Indianapolis, where a 19-year-old walked into a private business and proceeded to kill eight innocent workers, including four members of the Sikh community. My heart breaks for another set of families and friends newly devastated and the unthinkable happening to them.

While it is still early in the investigation and an exact motive remains unclear, all signs indicate that that young killer suffered from mental illness. The killer's own mother contacted authorities just last May for fear that he was going to commit what she called "suicide by cop."

The date of April 16 is unfortunately significant, as it is the solemn anniversary of the Virginia Tech massacre. Thirty-two students and educators lost their lives at the hands of a 23-year-old who had a well-documented record of mental illness. Despite clear homicidal warning signs, school authorities and counselors failed to intervene and help the troubled young man.

Earlier this April, tragedy struck when a 25-year-old man rammed his vehicle into a security barricade just steps from this Chamber. Fortunately for those inside, U.S. Capitol Police officers courageously intervened when the man brandished a large knife and lunged in their direction. As all of us know, this attacker tragically took the life of U.S. Capitol Police Officer Billy Evans. Officer Evans was a hero, and we mourn his loss.

While the Capitol attacker's exact motive is unknown, social media profiles indicate the man was a devout follower of a group that repeatedly holds racist, anti-Semitic, and anti-LGBTQ beliefs. It is too early to tell if these beliefs motivated this man to commit an act of terrorism, but what is clear is this man struggled with depression, hallucinations, and suicidal thoughts.